United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says UNPROFOR mandate in Croatia should not be reconsidered at this stage; says he cannot accede to Croatian proposal that Force deal separately with Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

+ Geneva talks to end war in Bosnia and Herzegovina continue with "serious search for solutions"; committee examining proposed United Nations role in supervising Sarajevo reports to heads of delegations; Bosnian President to visit New York for consultations.

+ Azerbaijan says Armenia's armed forces are stepping up military operations in its territory in spite of Security Council resolution 853 (1993); asks Council to consider applying sanctions against "the aggressor".

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In view of the ongoing peace-keeping efforts in Croatia, no action should be taken at this stage to reconsider the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has stated in a report to the Security Council dated 16 August. He wrote also that, in view of the overlapping political, administrative and operational considerations, he was "unable at this time to respond positively" to a proposal by the Croatian Government that UNPROFOR be mandated to deal separately with Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

When the Security Council voted on 20 June to extend UNPROFOR'S mandate to 30 September, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report one month later on progress towards implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan for Croatia. In recommending that extension, the Secretary-General said that significant progress in peacemaking efforts would be required if any further renewal was to be contemplated beyond that date. He stated in this latest report that the problems described then had clearly not been resolved.

(more)

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Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he would submit a further recommendation to the Council in the latter half of September.

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Talks in Geneva to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued today with several meetings and "a serious search for solutions", according to a United Nations spokesman. Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, first held a joint meeting with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and members of their delegations, and then with President Izetbegovic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and members of their delegations.

Co-Chairmen later met with the heads of all delegations on the question of Sarajevo. A committee looking into a proposal for a United Nations role in supervising the city reported to the meeting, which then moved on to other map-related issues.

In a separate development, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Muhamed Sacirbey, announced today that President Izetbegovic was planning to come to the New York within the next two weeks to consult with members of the Security Council and with the Membership as a whole regarding Bosnia's position in the international community, and the principles under which negotiations were to be pursued in Geneva.

At a news conference this afternoon Ambassador Sacirbey also rejected reports that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was waiting for offers of medical help from the international community for people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said that his mission had received offers of free medical care months ago, not only for the people of Sarajevo but also for those in need in other cities. Currently 400 physicians and 100 hospitals in the United States had offered their services, he said, stressing that the only obstacle to the delivery of that health care was "the bureaucracy which is the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

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Azerbaijan has accused Armenia's armed forces of stepping up military operations in its territory in spite of Security Council resolution 853 (1993), which condemned the seizure of occupied areas of Azerbaijan and demanded an immediate end to all hostilities there. In a letter dated 16 August, Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations appealed "urgently and categorically" to the Council to take the necessary measures to ensure Armenia's implementation of that resolution.

Azerbaijan asked the Council to consider applying sanctions against "the aggressor" -- Armenia -- as provided for in the United Nations Charter. Sanctions might include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations, according to the letter.

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